

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/912,784

Examiner

Julian Chang

Applicant(s)

JEANSONNE ET AL.

Art Unit

2152

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to decision by BPAI dated 06/28/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 17-31, 34, 38 and 45-55.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____



ANDREW CALDWELL
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office action is responsive to the decision by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences ("Board") filed on 06/28/07. Applicant has not submitted any amendments responsive to the Board decision. The Office is canceling claims 32, 33, 36, 37, 39 and 40-44, and allowing the remainder of the application in view of the Board decision and in accordance with MPEP 1214.06.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mark Scott on 10/29/07. Amendments to claims 34 and 38 are made in accordance to MPEP 1214.06.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

1-16. (Cancelled).

17. (Currently amended) A computer system comprising:

- a main system processor;
 - a system main memory coupled to the processor;
 - a radio module that scans for available wireless access points which support two-way data communications;
 - a power supply coupled to the radio module and the main system processor;
 - an electrical switch mounted on an external surface of the computer system; and
 - a seek logic coupled to the electrical switch and the power supply;
- wherein the seek logic commands the power supply to power the radio module responsive to the actuation of the electrical switch; and
- wherein, while the computer system is powered-off, the radio module scans for available wireless access points, and indicates the availability of a wireless access point, ~~both while the computer system is powered-off~~.

18. (Previously amended) The computer system as defined in claim 17 wherein the radio module further comprises:

- a media access controller coupled to a Universal Serial Bus (USB) of the computer system, the media access controller having a digital input signal coupled to

the seek logic, and wherein the media access controller scans for available wireless access points responsive to assertion of the digital input signal by the seek logic;

a plurality of radio circuits that convert wireless communication from the computer system to radio frequency signals; and

a signaling unit coupled to the media access controller that indicates the availability of a wireless access point.

19. (Original) The computer system as defined in claim 18 wherein the signaling unit further comprises a light emitting diode (LED) coupled to the media access controller, and wherein the media access controller lights the LED if a wireless access point is available.

20. (Original) The computer system as defined in claim 18 wherein the signaling unit further comprises a display device capable of scrolling text messages, and wherein the media access controller places text messages on the display device indicating the availability of a wireless access point.

21. (Previously presented) The computer system as defined in claim 17 wherein the electrical switch further comprises a momentary push button switch mounted on an outer surface of a video display of the computer system.

22. (Currently amended) A computer system comprising:

a processor;

a main memory array coupled to the processor;

a radio module that scans for available wireless access points;

a power supply coupled to the radio module and the processor;

an electrical switch mounted on an external surface of the computer system; and

a seek logic coupled to the electrical switch and the power supply;

wherein the seek logic commands the power supply to power the radio module responsive to the actuation of the electrical switch, the command only when the computer is powered-off, and the command for the same amount of time that the electrical switch is activated, thus requiring the user to hold electrical switch in the actuated position during a seek period of the ~~media access controller~~ radio module; and

wherein, while the computer system is powered-off, the radio module scans for available wireless access points, and indicates the availability of a wireless access point, ~~both while the computer system is powered-off~~.

23. (Currently amended) The computer system as defined in claim 22 wherein the seek logic further comprises:

a power supply enabled input signal, wherein the power supply enabled input signal is asserted to indicate that the ~~notebook~~ computer system is powered-on; and

wherein the seek logic is further configured to refrain from commanding the radio module to perform a scan for available wireless access points if the power supply enabled input signal is asserted.

24. (Previously presented) The computer system as defined in claim 17 wherein, responsive to a momentary actuation of the electrical switch, the seek logic is configured to command the power supply to power the radio module for a sufficient amount of time to allow the radio module to perform a wireless access seek function, and wherein the seek logic command the radio module to perform a scan for available access points responsive to the momentary actuation of the electrical switch.

25. (Currently amended) The computer system as defined in claim 24 wherein the seek logic further comprises:

a power supply enabled input signal, wherein the power supply enabled signal is asserted to indicated that the ~~notebook~~ computer system is powered-on; and

wherein the seek logic is further configured to refrain from commanding the radio module to perform a scan for available wireless access points if the power supply enabled input signal is asserted.

26. (Previously presented) A method of finding wireless access points with a computing device, the method comprising:

requesting a wireless access seek with the computing device powered-off;

scanning for available wireless access points which support two-way data communication, the scanning with a wireless communication module of the portable

computing device while remaining portions of the computing device are powered-off;
and

indicating the availability of wireless access points while the remaining portions of the computing device are powered-off.

27. (Original) The method as defined in claim 26 wherein requesting a wireless access seek further comprises actuating a momentary push-button.

28. (Original) The method as defined in claim 27 wherein actuating a momentary push-button further comprises pushing a button on an outer surface of the computing device.

29. (Previously presented) The method as defined in claim 26 wherein requesting a wireless access seek further comprises:

enabling substantially only a power supply that supplies power to the wireless communication module; and

asserting a seek request signal to the wireless communication module.

30. (Previously presented) The method as defined in claim 26 wherein scanning for available wireless access point further comprises executing software in a microcontroller of the wireless communication module, and wherein the software controls various radio components in the wireless communication module.

Art Unit: 2152

31. (Original) The method as defined in claim 26 wherein informing the user of the availability of wireless seek access points further comprises lighting a light emitting diode.

32-33. (Cancelled).

34. ~~The computer as defined in claim 32~~

A computer comprising:

_____ a main system processor;

_____ a main memory array coupled to the processor;

_____ a seek request button mounted on an outer surface of the computer;

_____ a seek logic coupled to the seek request button;

_____ a first power supply coupled to the seek logic, and wherein the seek logic enables substantially only the first power supply responsive to assertion of the seek request button;

_____ a wireless communication module coupled to the seek logic and the first power supply, wherein the first power supply powers the wireless communication module, and wherein the seek logic enables the wireless communication module to perform seeking for wireless access points for network data communications, and the seeking responsive to assertion of the seek request button; and

_____ a notification device coupled to the wireless communication module, wherein the notification device indicates the unavailability of a wireless access point;

wherein the seek logic refrains from enabling the wireless communication module to perform seeking for wireless access clients if the computer is powered-on.

35-37. (Cancelled).

38. ~~The computer system as defined in claim 36~~

A computer system comprising:

a means for executing programs and instructions;

a means for storing programs and data coupled to the means for executing;

a means for activating a seek for a wireless access point mounted on an outer surface of the computer;

a first means for powering the means for wireless access and the means for executing;

a means for controlling the means for wireless access coupled to the means for wireless network access, the means for activating, and the means for powering;

wherein the first means for powering powers substantially only the means for wireless network access; and wherein the means for controlling enables the means for wireless network access to perform a seek for wireless access points responsive to assertion means for activating; and

a means for notification of the unavailability of a wireless access point coupled to the means for wireless communication;

wherein the means for controlling refrains from enabling the means for wireless network access to perform seeking for wireless access points if the computer system is powered-on.

39-44. (Cancelled).

45. (Previously presented) A system comprising:

- a mobile computing system in a powered-off state;
- a wireless communication module which supports two-way data communication, the wireless communication module coupled to the mobile computing system; and
- a seek enabled button mounted on an exterior surface of one of the mobile computing device or the wireless communication module;

wherein the wireless communication module, when commanded by a user actuating the seek enable button and while the mobile computing system is powered-off, scans for availability of wireless access to a network; and

wherein the wireless communication module informs the user of availability of wireless access while the mobile computing system is powered-off.

46. (Previously presented) The system as defined in claim 45 further comprising:

- a power supply coupled with the mobile computing system;
- wherein the power supply, responsive to actuating the seek enable button by the user, supplies power to the wireless communication module, and refrains from powering

Art Unit: 2152

the mobile computing system such that the mobile computing system remains powered-off.

47. (Previously presented) The system as defined in claim 46 further comprising:

a seek logic coupled between the seek enable button and the power supply, the seek logic also coupled between the seek enable button and the wireless communication module;

wherein the seek logic, responsive to assertion of the seek enable button, command the power supply to supply power to the wireless communication module, and wherein the seek logic, responsive to assertion of the seek enable button, commands the wireless communication module to scan for availability of wireless access to a network.

48. (Previously presented) The system as defined in claim 47 wherein the seek logic refrains from commanding the power supply and wireless communication module if the mobile computing device is powered-on.

49. (Previously presented) A method comprising:

accepting a command from a user of a powered-off mobile computing device to perform a search for wireless network availability; and thereafter

performing a search for wireless access availability which supports two-way data communication, the performing by a wireless communication module of the mobile

Art Unit: 2152

computing device, and the performing while the mobile computing device is powered-off; and

informing the user of an outcome of the performing, the informing while the computing system is powered-off.

50. (Previously presented) The method as defined in claim 49 wherein accepting further comprises sensing the actuation of a seek enable button on an exterior surface of one of the mobile computing device or the wireless communication module.

51. (Previously presented) The method as defined in claim 49 wherein informing further comprises lighting a light emitting diode.

52. (Previously presented) The method as defined in claim 49 wherein informing further comprises scrolling a message across a liquid crystal display.

53. (Previously presented) The computer system as defined in claim 17 wherein the radio module indicates the unavailability of a wireless access point while the computer system is powered-off.

54. (Previously presented) A computer system comprising"

a radio module that scans for available wireless access points that support two-way data communications;

Art Unit: 2152

a power supply coupled to the radio module;

an electrical switch mounted on an external surface of the computer system; and

a seek logic module coupled to the electrical switch and the power supply;

wherein the seek logic commands the power supply to power the radio module responsive to the actuation of the electrical switch; and

wherein the radio module scans for available wireless access points, and indicates the availability of a wireless access point, both before an operating system of the computer system is booted.

55. (Previously presented) The computer system as defined in claim 54 wherein the radio module indicates the unavailability of a wireless access point before an operating system of the computer system is booted.

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Julian Chang whose telephone number is (571) 272-8631. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday 8am to 4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bunjob Jaroenchonwanit can be reached on (571) 272-3913. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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